

# Contribution from Patron

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## INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND THE THIRD GENDER

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### *Abstract*

LGBTQIA+ community across the world has been fighting tooth and nail for their rights and establishing their legal identity across the globe. From fighting for rights of equal opportunity to equal recognition of their capabilities, this community has seen it all. From one but huge victory by decriminalizing of Section 377 of IPC, to claiming recognition to same- sex marriage in India, we have come a long way.

Supreme Court in the petition for Same-Sex Marriage rights, it was well observed that it would hurdle the whole fraternity of Personal Laws. But what was completely out of picture during the debate of this petition was the Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). The lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) population faces more difficult outcomes compared to the heterosexual population “across different life domains, including mental and physical health, subjective wellbeing, employment, poverty, homelessness, and social exclusion. IPV in the LGB population has not been studied as frequently as in the heterosexual population.

Keywords: *LGBTQ, Third Gender, Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner Violence,*

## PART I: INTRODUCTION

Our community is made up of individuals who are xenophobic—a fear or hate of strangers or foreigners—and who discriminate against LGBTQ persons as well as anyone who does not come from a particularly dominating society or culture. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals in particular struggle with homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, and heterosexism, which makes it difficult for them to talk about or confront the violence they experience and the support or assistance they require. The main issue with this is that these people are either unable or do not have the chance to discuss the violence that has occurred to them throughout their lives. It merely strengthens the stereotype that same-sex partnerships are abnormal or ill.

According to one of the most recent and representative study reports, almost one-third of sexual minority males and one-half of sexual minority women in the United States affirmed they were victims of physical or psychological abuse in a romantic relationship. In addition, over 50% of gay men and almost 75% of lesbian women reported that they were victims of psychological IPV. There is a lack of studies that address LGB individuals involved in IPV; this is mostly due to the silence that has historically existed around violence in the LGB community, a silence built on fears and myths that have obstructed a public discussion on the phenomenon<sup>1</sup>. A qualitative study using in-depth interviews with men who were attracted to people of the same gender found that emotional and verbal abuse was the most common type of abuse described by IPV survivors, again more often than physical violence. According to research, the most prevalent type of intimate partner violence (IPV) in relationships involving sexual minorities is stalking, not dating. According to a survey, 60.27% of gay

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<sup>1</sup> Front. Psychol., 21 August 2018 Sec. Gender, Sex and Sexualities Volume 9 - 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.01506>

men and 60.38% of bisexual men said they had been the victims of IPV, or intimate partner violence.<sup>12</sup> This type of aggressiveness was reported by almost half of heterosexual women (47.5%), seven out of ten bisexual women (76.2%), and six out of ten lesbians (63.0%).<sup>2, 3</sup> However, a number of systematic reviews and research have found that, in same-sex relationships, sexual violence is the least severe type of IPV, and heterosexism can influence these partnerships.

## PART II: GENESIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Early exposure to domestic abuse and the understanding that using aggressiveness and violence to get what one wants increases the likelihood that an individual will use violence against their partner later in life and contributes to the intergenerational transfer of violence.<sup>17</sup> IPV also acts in the LGB population through syndemics or synergistic epidemics, in which a population's health problems cluster together due to biological interactions, intensifying the illness's total impact. As a result, problems with physical, mental, and behavioural health make vulnerable populations worse.<sup>18</sup> Multiple mental health issues, including depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and drug use disorder, are linked to intimate partner violence (IPV).

## PART III: TYPES OF VIOLENCE FACED

There are various ways that heterosexual and LGBTQ partner violence are similar:

1. Physical Violence: Any aggressive behavior inflicted on the victim, such as striking, biting, slapping, beating, shoving, punching, pulling hair,

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<sup>2</sup> Dickerson-Amaya, Natasha, and Bethany M. Coston. "Invisibility is not invincibility: The impact of intimate partner violence on gay, bisexual, and straight men's mental health." *American journal of men's health* 13.3 (2019): 1557988319849734.

<sup>3</sup> Canan, Sasha N., et al. "Validation of the sexual experience survey-short form revised using lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual women's narratives of sexual violence." *Archives of sexual behavior* 49 (2020): 1067-1083.

burning, cutting, pinching, etc., will be considered physical abuse. Physical abuse also includes pressuring someone to consume drugs or alcohol and refusing them medical attention.

2. **Emotional Violence:** A victim of emotional abuse may have their sense of self-worth and/or shallowness diminished. Constant criticizing, calling names, destroying the victim's relationship with their children, or meddling with their skills are all common manifestations of emotional abuse.
3. **Economic Violence:** Once the perpetrator attempts to make the victim financially reliant, economic abuse occurs. Economic abusers typically succeed in retaining complete control over financial resources, preventing the victim from accessing money, or preventing the victim from attending employment or education.
4. **Sexual Violence:** Sexual abuse happens when someone tries to force or squeeze the victim into engaging in sexual activity or contact without that person's consent. The most common forms of this include rape based on marital status, aggressive sexual body parts, physical abuse that is followed by forced sex, sexually humiliating the victim, making crude jokes about sex, raping someone with a weapon or object, and/or making derogatory sexual remarks. This kind of aggression may potentially be fatal.
5. **Psychological Violence:** When someone abuses someone psychologically, they may threaten to harm themselves, the victim, their children, their family, friends, or their pets; they may destroy property; harm their pets; keep the victim away from loved ones; or prevent them from attending school or working. Threats involving physical harm, injury, or the use of a weapon also qualify as psychological abuse.

### 1. Health Consequence:

Serious illnesses like HIV and AIDS, which are stigmatized in society, have a significant effect on gay and bisexual males. It is one of the prevalent illnesses observed in guys who have sex with men. It has been shown that it can result in abuse aspects for the individual experiencing it. Additionally, those who lack other sources of financial support when they become ill sometimes have no choice but to stay in violent situations. Additionally, it was revealed that 60% of HIV-positive homosexual men made decisions to remain in violent relationships mostly because they feared becoming ill and dying.

### 2. INTOXICATION:

While it has been shown that drugs and alcohol do not promote domestic violence, they can be considered as a coping mechanism. One study found that men living with HIV/AIDS who were gay reported higher rates of violence, which was associated with their use of crystal methamphetamine, which heightened the degree of physical violence.

### 3. PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCE:

Intimate partner violence frequently results in psychological problems such as anxiety disorders, depression disorders, bipolar disorder, and any type of trauma-related illness. LGBT people are known to experience significant anxiety since they must come out to their family and friends as members of the LGBTQ community. It is also evident that these individuals encounter a great deal of prejudice and discrimination, which makes it common for them to encounter homophobia and harassment anywhere, thus impacting their mental health.

## PART V: CONCLUSION

Comparing the LGBTQ community to heterosexuals, we can conclude that they experience intimate partner violence on par with or even higher. Because of their distinct gender identity or sexual orientation, these persons have difficulty accessing assistance. The general public is ignorant of the various forms of violence that the LGBT community is subjected to, which, in a heteronormative society, typically goes unnoticed or is ignored, making these people feel powerless to report acts of violence against them. It was discovered that police and law enforcement have no interest in helping the LGBTQ community or resolving intimate partner violence. For IPV, these individuals rely on their personal networks. Because there is a preconceived notion that women are not physically powerful and dangerous, IPV is seen as innocuous in the case of lesbian women, yet there is a perceived stigma against gay males that they are less manly than heterosexual men.

Bisexuals are thought to enjoy the same privileges as heterosexuals, which makes gay and lesbian people less likely to take victimization seriously. In addition, a lot of victim-survivors have a nonchalant attitude about violence because of homophobia and the LGBTQ community's lack of awareness of it. Ideologies about masculinity and femininity that are ingrained in culture prevent LGBTQ victims of intimate partner violence from speaking out about or disclosing their experiences. In terms of the future, prejudice against LGB persons need to end completely, or at the very least be reduced to the point that it doesn't negatively impact their mental health. Physicians and other medical personnel should receive appropriate training so they can provide the LGBTQ community's IPV victims with the care they need. Reforms, initiatives, and support groups for LGBTQ individuals who have experienced intimate partner violence are imperative. A number of programs, forums, reforms, and workshops must be implemented in order for victims and offenders of violence to have positive relationships.